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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	SATURDAY: EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
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Trump threatens to try to take back the Panama Canal. Panama's president balks at the suggestion

By **BILL BARROW** and **WILL WEISSERT**

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Donald Trump suggested Sunday that his new administration could try to regain control of the Panama Canal that the United States "foolishly" ceded to its Central American ally, contending that shippers are charged "ridiculous" fees to pass through the vital transportation channel linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Panama's conservative president José Raúl Mulino, who was elected in April on a pro-business platform, roundly rejected that notion as an affront to his country's sovereignty.

The Republican president-



President-elect Donald Trump speaks at AmericaFest, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

elect's comment came during his first major rally since winning the White House on Nov. 5. He also used his comments to also bask

in his return to power as a large audience of conservatives cheered along. It was a display of party unity at odds with a just-concluded

budget fight on Capitol Hill where some GOP lawmakers openly defied their leader's demands.

Addressing supporters at Turning Point USA's AmericaFest in Arizona, Trump pledged that his "dream team Cabinet" would deliver a booming economy, seal U.S. borders and quickly settle wars in the Middle East and Ukraine.

"I can proudly proclaim that the Golden Age of America is upon us," Trump said. "There's a spirit that we have now that we didn't have just a short while ago."

His appearance capped a four-day pep rally that drew more than 20,000 activists and projected an image of Republican cohesion despite the past week's turbulence in Washington with Trump pulling strings from his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida as Congress worked to avoid a government shutdown heading into the Christmas holiday.

House Republicans spiked a bipartisan deal after Trump and Elon Musk, his billionaire ally, expressed their opposition on social media. Budget hawks flouted Trump's request to raise the nation's debt ceiling, which would have spared some new rounds of the same fight after he takes office Jan. 20, 2025, with Republicans holding narrow control of the House and Senate. The final agreement did not address the issue and there was no shutdown.

Trump, in his remarks in Phoenix, did not mention the congressional drama, though he did reference Musk's growing power. To suggestions that "President Trump has ceded the presidency to Elon," Trump made clear, "No, no. That's not happening."

"He's not gonna be president," Trump said.

The president-elect opened the speech by saying that "we want to try to bring everybody together. We're going to try. We're going to really give it a shot." Then he suggested Democrats have "lost their confidence" and are "befuddled" after the election but eventually will "come over to our side

because we want to have them."

Atop a list of grievances — some old, some new — was the Panama Canal.

"We're being ripped off at the Panama Canal," he said, bemoaning that his country "foolishly gave it away."

The United States built the Panama canal in the early 1900s, as it looked for ways to facilitate the transit of commercial and military vessels between its coasts. Washington relinquished control of the waterway to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999, under a treaty signed in 1977 under President Jimmy Carter.

The canal depends on reservoirs to operate its locks and was heavily affected by 2023 Central American droughts that forced it to substantially reduce the number of daily slots for crossing ships. With fewer ships using the canal each day, administrators also increased the fees that are charged all shippers for reserving a slot.

With weather returning to normal in the later months of this year, transit on the canal has normalized. But price increases are still expected for next year.

Mulino, Panama's president, has been described as a conservative populist who aligns with Trump on many issues. Panama is a strong U.S. ally and the canal is crucial for its economy, generating about one-fifth of that government's annual revenue. Still, Trump said, that, once his second term is underway, "If the principles, both moral and legal, of this magnanimous gesture of giving are not followed, then we will demand that the Panama Canal be returned to the United States of America, in full, quickly and without question."

"I'm not going to stand for it," Trump said. "So to the officials of Panama, please be guided accordingly."

He did not explain how that would be possible.

A short time after Trump's speech, Mulino released a video declaring that "every square meter of the canal belongs to Panama and will continue to belong" to his country. □

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Trump taps 'Apprentice' producer, Mark Burnett, as special envoy to the United Kingdom

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Mark Burnett, the power producer who helped reintroduce Donald Trump to a national television audience with "The Apprentice," is being tapped by the president-elect as special envoy to the United Kingdom in his upcoming administration. "With a distinguished career in television production and business, Mark brings a unique blend of diplomatic acumen and international recognition to this important role," Trump announced Saturday.

Burnett, who was born in London, helped produce hits like "Survivor" and "The Voice," but is perhaps best known for teaming up with Trump for "The Apprentice," which first aired on NBC in 2004.

Trump had been well-known in real estate and pop culture circles for decades. But the show helped again make him a household name — though Trump severed ties with NBC in 2015, the same year he launched his first White House run. The selection of Burnett continues Trump's trend of filling out his incoming administration with people who have high-profile backgrounds in television or politics, or both



President Donald Trump, right, talks with television producer Mark Burnett during the National Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 2, 2017, in Washington.

— including his choice to be defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, a former co-host of "Fox & Friends Weekend," and ex-television doctor and unsuccessful Senate candidate in Pennsylvania, Mehmet Oz. Trump's first campaign in 2016 was rocked by allegations about his conduct on "The Apprentice" and other appearances during his association with NBC, notably in footage in which he said he could sexually assault women and get away with

it because he was a "star." Almost a decade after he left his reality TV role, Trump's television career remains central to his biography and political rise. The show presented Trump Tower to tens of millions of people as a symbol of power and success before Trump launched his first campaign from the building's lobby.

"Mark is known for creating and producing some of the biggest shows in Television History," Trump wrote in his

statement on Burnett, listing many of his biggest hits before adding, "most notably, 'The Apprentice'" and noting that Burnett "has won 13 Emmy Awards!"

Later Saturday, Trump announced in a separate statement that he was picking casino magnate Tilman Fertitta as his choice to be U.S. ambassador to Italy.

Burnett, meanwhile, will be a special envoy, posts usually filled by presidents for the world's traditional hotspots,

including the Middle East — where Trump has already said he'd like Steven Witkoff to fill the role. The United Kingdom, which has long enjoyed a "special relationship" with the U.S. that makes it one of Washington's strongest global allies, is not typically a candidate for such posts.

But Trump has announced a series of special envoy positions to several top loyalists ahead of Inauguration Day on Jan. 20, including his former ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell who he chose as envoy for special missions. That announcement joined previous ones including Adam Boehler as special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, and Keith Kellogg to serve as special envoy for Ukraine and Russia.

Trump previously announced on Dec. 2 that he was picking billionaire investment banker Warren Stephens for the more standard role of U.S. ambassador to Britain. That might raise questions about how a special U.K. envoy could overlap duties, but the president-elect said in his statement that Burnett "will work to enhance diplomatic relations, focusing on areas of mutual interest, including trade, investment opportunities, and cultural exchanges." □

Associated Press

A million taxpayers will soon receive up to \$1,400 from the IRS. Who are they and why now?

By SUSAN HAIGH

Associated Press

Approximately 1 million taxpayers will automatically receive special payments of up to \$1,400 from the IRS in the coming weeks. The money will be directly deposited into eligible people's bank accounts or sent in the mail by a paper check.

The IRS said it's distributing about \$2.4 billion to taxpayers who failed to claim a Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2021 tax returns. People who missed one of the COVID stimulus payments or had received less than the full amount were able to claim the credit.

But the IRS on Friday said it discovered many eligible taxpayers hadn't done so. "Looking at our internal data, we realized that one million taxpayers overlooked claiming this complex credit when they were actually eligible," IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel said in a statement.

Here's more about the unexpected cash this group of taxpayers will soon receive:

What's the likelihood I'll receive a check?

Sorry, it's probably pretty low. The IRS said most taxpayers eligible for the federal stimulus payments, formally known as Economic

Impact Payments, have already received them.

The special payments announced by the IRS are being sent to those taxpayers who filed a 2021 tax return but left the data field for the Recovery Rebate Credit blank or they filled it out as \$0 when they were actually eligible for the credit.

How will this work?

Eligible taxpayers don't have to take any action. The payments will go out automatically this month and should arrive by direct deposit or check by late January 2025. They'll be sent to the bank account listed on the taxpayer's 2023 return or to the ad-



This April 13, 2014, file photo shows the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) headquarters building in Washington.

Associated Press

dress IRS has on file.

Payments will vary but the maximum amount will be \$1,400 per individual. The

IRS has posted information online about eligibility and how the payment was calculated. □

Top-ranking NYPD officer abruptly resigns amid sexual misconduct allegations

By PHILIP MARCELO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The highest-ranking uniformed officer in the New York Police Department has resigned amid allegations he demanded sex from a subordinate in exchange for opportunities to earn extra pay.

Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch accepted Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey's resignation Friday night, effective immediately, according to a department statement Saturday.

Chief of Patrol John Chell will take over as interim chief of department, and Philip Rivera will assume Chell's duties as the head of the patrol division, the NYPD said.

Late Saturday, Tisch replaced the head of the internal affairs bureau, which investigates alleged police misconduct, saying in a statement that the unit "must always be dedicated to preserving integrity and rooting out corruption in all its forms." She appointed Edward Thompson as interim chief after Miguel Iglesias was relieved of his command. The NYPD declined to comment on the allegations against Maddrey other than to say it "takes all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and will thoroughly investigate this matter."



NYPD Chief Jeffrey Maddrey attends a news conference outside New York City Police Department 40th Precinct, July 17, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

A lawyer for his accuser, Lt. Quathisha Epps, said the move was overdue.

"This should have been done a long time ago," lawyer Eric Sanders said by phone Saturday. "This has been years in the making, this kind of behavior. This is not a shock for anyone who understands how things work in this department."

Epps filed a complaint Saturday against the city with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, claiming that Maddrey engaged in "quid pro quo sexual harassment" by coercing her to "perform unwanted sexual favors in exchange for overtime opportunities in the workplace."

Epps, who holds an administrative post in Maddrey's office, said that when she finally pushed back at Maddrey's demands, he retaliated by claiming she was abusing overtime, prompting the department to launch a review.

Sanders said his client was then suspended without pay despite putting in her retirement notice earlier this week.

Epps was the department's top earner in fiscal year 2024, earning more than \$400,000, according to local media reports — more than half of it in overtime pay.

"Ms. Epps has endured profound harm at the hands of individuals who exploited their positions of power for personal gain," Sanders said in a statement. "The retaliation she faced for standing up to this abuse underscores the need for immediate reforms to address systemic failures within the NYPD." Spokespersons for the de-

partment declined to comment on the complaint, but Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said it is investigating.

"These are extremely serious and disturbing claims that allegedly occurred at N.Y.P.D. headquarters in Manhattan," the office said in a statement.

A spokesperson for Mayor Eric Adams said Tisch, whom he tapped last month to steady a department roiled by investigations, is conducting her own departmentwide review "to ensure no high ranking officers are using their power inappropriately."

"We are deeply disturbed by these allegations," Kayla Mamelak Altus said in a statement, while declining to comment further for now. Maddrey's attorney, Lambros Lambrou, didn't respond to a request for comment on the various allegations. However, in a statement to the New York Post, he dismissed Epps' claims as "completely meritless."

"What a convenient time to accuse somebody of misconduct after she's caught stealing time," Lambrou told the paper. "She's obviously drowning and in the deep end of the pool without a lifesaver. She wants to take down as many people as she can." □

Louisiana often holds inmates past their release date, DOJ lawsuit claims



The sun shines through concertina wire on a fence at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, La., April 26, 2014.

Associated Press

By KATE PAYNE

Associated Press/Report for America

Louisiana's prison system routinely holds people weeks and months after they have

completed their sentences, the U.S. Department of Justice alleged in a lawsuit filed Friday. The suit against the state of Louisiana follows a multiyear investigation into

what federal officials say is a pattern of "systemic over-detention" that violates inmates' rights and costs taxpayers millions of dollars a year. DOJ alleges that since at least 2012, more than a quarter of the people due to be released from Louisiana prisons have instead been held past their release dates. DOJ warned Louisiana officials last year that the state could face a lawsuit if it didn't fix the problems, but lawyers for the department say the state's "marginal efforts" to address the issues were "inadequate" and showed a "deliberate indifference" to the constitu-

tional rights of incarcerated individuals.

"(T)he right to individual liberty includes the right to be released from incarceration on time after the term set by the court has ended," Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke said in a statement announcing the suit.

"To incarcerate people indefinitely ... not only intrudes on individual liberty, but also erodes public confidence in the fair and just application of our laws."

In a joint statement provided to The Associated Press, Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry and state Attorney General Liz Murrill blamed the problem

on the "failed criminal justice reforms" advanced by "the past administration."

"This past year, we have taken significant action to keep Louisianans safe and ensure those who commit the crime, also do the time," the statement reads. "The State of Louisiana is committed to preserving the constitutional rights of Louisiana citizens." The Republican state officials also characterized the effort as a last-ditch lawsuit by outgoing President Joe Biden, reasoning that the incoming administration of Donald Trump would not have allowed the case to be filed. □

Navy pilots shot down over Red Sea in apparent 'friendly fire' incident, U.S. military says

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

(AP) — Two U.S. Navy pilots were shot down Sunday over the Red Sea in an apparent "friendly fire" incident, the U.S. military said, marking the most serious incident to threaten troops in over a year of America targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels.

Both pilots were recovered alive after ejecting from their stricken aircraft, with one suffering minor injuries. But the shootdown underlines just how dangerous the Red Sea corridor has become, with ongoing attacks on shipping by the Iranian-backed Houthis despite U.S. and European military coalitions patrolling the area.

The U.S. military had conducted airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels at the time of the friendly fire incident, though the U.S. military's Central Command did not elaborate on what the pilots' mission was and did not respond to questions from The Associated Press. The F/A-18 shot down had just flown off the deck of the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft



A fighter jet maneuvers on the deck of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Red Sea, June 11, 2024. 2 U.S.

Associated Press

carrier, Central Command said. On Dec. 15, Central Command acknowledged the Truman had entered the Mideast, but hadn't specified that the carrier and its battle group was in the Red Sea.

"The guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg, which is part

of the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group, mistakenly fired on and hit the F/A-18," Central Command said in a statement.

From the military's description, the aircraft shot down was a two-seat F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jet assigned to the "Red Rippers" of Strike

Fighter Squadron 11 out of Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia.

It wasn't immediately clear how the Gettysburg could mistake an F/A-18 for an enemy aircraft or missile, particularly as ships in a battle group remain linked by both radar and radio communi-

cation.

However, Central Command said that warships and aircraft earlier shot down multiple Houthi drones and an anti-ship cruise missile launched by the rebels. Incoming hostile fire from the Houthis has given sailors just seconds to make decisions in the past.

Since the Truman's arrival, the U.S. has stepped up its airstrikes targeting the Houthis and their missile fire into the Red Sea and the surrounding area. However, the presence of an American warship group may spark renewed attacks from the rebels, like what the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower saw earlier this year. That deployment marked what the Navy described as its most intense combat since World War II. On Saturday night and early Sunday, U.S. warplanes conducted airstrikes that shook Sanaa, the capital of Yemen which the Houthis have held since 2014. Central Command described the strikes as targeting a "missile storage facility" and a "command-and-control facility," without elaborating. □

Rome's iconic Trevi Fountain reopens after renovation work in time for the Jubilee Holy Year



A view of the 18th century Trevi Fountain, one of Rome's most iconic landmarks, as it reopens to the public after undergoing maintenance, just on time for the start of the Jubilee Year, an event expected to draw millions of visitors to the Eternal City, in Rome, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024.

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Rome's iconic Trevi Fountain reopened Sunday after three months of renovations, just in time for the inauguration of the 2025 Jubilee Holy Year that is expected to draw millions of visitors.

The renovation work on the 18th-century monument

that's one of the Italian capital's main attractions cost 327,000 euros (\$341,000).

To avoid overcrowding, the monument will be limited to 400 visitors at a time.

"This way visitors will have ample opportunity to observe it and understand the values it embodies," said

Claudio Parisi Presicce, Rome's superintendent for cultural heritage.

To manage the overwhelming number of visitors, and the huge crowd expected for the Jubilee, Rome City officials have been devising a plan to block off the area around the fountain.

Visitors will be required to book online and pay 2 euros (\$2.20) to enter. Once inside, they will have 30 minutes to enjoy the fountain.

During the renovation work, visitors could make their traditional coin toss into a makeshift pool. City lore has it that tossing a coin into the Baroque fountain will ensure a return trip to Rome.

The tradition generates an estimated 1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million) annually, which has been donated to the Catholic charity Caritas for the past 15 years. □



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Ukrainian drones hit a Russian fuel depot for the second time this month

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian drones struck a major Russian fuel depot for the second time in just over a week on Sunday, according to a senior Russian regional official, as part of a "massive" cross-border attack on fuel and energy facilities that Kyiv says supply Moscow's military.

The strikes came days after Russia launched sweeping attacks on Ukraine's already battered energy grid, threatening to plunge thousands of homes into darkness as winter tightens its grip over the region, and as Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor nears the three-year mark.

A fire broke out at the Stalnoy Kon oil terminal in Russia's southern Oryol region, local Gov. Andrey Klychkov said in a post on the Telegram messaging app, adding Russian forces downed 20 drones targeting "fuel and energy infrastructure" in the province. Russian independent news outlet Astra shared video of what it said was an explosion at the site, showing a massive orange blaze lighting up the night sky. While the clip could not be independently verified, it was later shared by a Ukrainian security official who described it as footage from Oryol.

The official, Andriy Kovalenko of the Council of National Security and Defense, claimed the Oryol fuel depot supplies Russian forces fighting in Ukraine and southern Russia,



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks as he attends a ceremony to launch new air and road infrastructure facilities in various country's regions via videoconference at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024.

including the Kursk province where Ukrainian troops have dug in following a lightning incursion in August.

According to Klychkov, the Russian local governor, the fire was extinguished hours later and did not cause casualties or "significant" damage. Other key war-related developments from Ukraine and Russia:

— Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday vowed retaliation after Ukrainian drones the day before struck residential buildings in the city of Kazan, in the Tatarstan region over 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) from the front

line. Speaking to Tatarstan's regional governor, Rustam Minnikhanov, Putin asserted that anyone attacking Russia has to reckon with Moscow inflicting "many times greater damage" in return, but did not elaborate. His remarks were carried by Russian state news agencies.

Minnikhanov's press service on Saturday said that eight drones attacked Kazan. Local authorities said there were no casualties.

— A 30-year-old man died on the spot Sunday in Ukraine's southern Kherson region after a Russian drone dropped explosives nearby, local Gov.

Oleksandr Prokudin reported. Hours earlier, Prokudin said that two other civilians died as a result of Russian drone strikes on the province late on Saturday. A man in his late 40s suffered fatal injuries from a drone blast, and a woman was found dead under rubble after another drone slammed into her house.

— In the Kharkiv region in the northeast, a Russian drone strike Sunday severely injured a 56-year-old man as he walked down a road in the city of Kupiansk, local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov reported. He said the man would need to have at least one limb am-

putated as a result, but gave no further detail.

— In the Kyiv suburb of Brovary, debris from a Russian drone sparked a fire late on Saturday on the roof of a 25-story tower block, according to regional Gov. Ruslan Kravchenko. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

— According to Ukraine's Air Force, Russia launched 103 Iranian-made Shahed drones at its neighbor overnight into Sunday. Ukrainian air defense shot down 52 of the drones while another 44 failed to reach their targets, the force said in a statement, in a likely reference to electronic jamming.

— Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday that its forces had intercepted 42 Ukrainian drones launched overnight at Russian territory. According to the ministry, 20 of those were over the Oryol region, where the local governor said a blaze tore through the oil terminal.

— Separately, Russian forces have continued grinding forward in Ukraine's northeast, in addition to eking out gains near the eastern town of Kurakhove. On Sunday, Russia's Defense Ministry reported that its troops had captured two northeastern settlements: Lozova in the Kharkiv region and Krasne in the Luhansk province. There was no immediate confirmation from Kyiv. □

Associated Press



Chairman of the Special Commission for the Defense of Guyana Essequibo Hermann Escarra, stands next to Venezuela's new map that includes the Essequibo territory, a swath of land that is administered and controlled by Guyana but claimed by Venezuela, during an unveiling ceremony in Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana's government Saturday formally protested to Venezuela following the completion by Venezuela's

armed forces of a bridge built on a remote river island shared by both countries. Work on the bridge, which links Venezuela's mainland to a military base, has caused a

Tensions over Essequibo region resurface as Venezuela completes a bridge to a disputed border base

decades-old row over border lines in the Essequibo region to flare up again. Guyana Foreign Minister Hugh Todd said in a statement that he was forced to summon Venezuelan Ambassador Amador Perez Silva to his office Thursday to condemn the move by Venezuela to build the bridge. The bridge links Venezuela's mainland to the eastern side of Ankoko island. The ministry claims the bridge connects the Venezuelan mainland to a small military base that Venezuela built illegally on Guyana's side of

Ankoko, a small island that is mostly inhabited by gold miners and military personnel. The two neighboring states have feuded over land and maritime borders for decades as Venezuela claims that an 1890s boundaries commission cheated it out of the oil rich Essequibo region. The region currently makes up two-thirds of Guyana's territory. The area was administered by Britain for more than a century, and it has been under Guyanese control since 1966, when the nation gained its independence from the United King-

dom. Last year, Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro threatened to annex the region by force, following a referendum in which Venezuelan voters were asked if the Essequibo should be turned into a Venezuelan state. But Caribbean leaders, Brazil and the U.N. organized an emergency summit between the presidents of both nations on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, where they agreed to resolve the dispute through peaceful means, and to avoid taking actions that would raise tensions. □



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Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo"

(not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.
3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very



simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". ☐



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The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino celebrates its local partners!



Team members of the Sales, Catering and Marketing departments at the Hilton Aruba Resort & Casino recently put a beautiful evening reception together to thank partners from the local business community for their continuous support in 2024.

Co-hosting the party, Commercial Director Jennifer Bolstad, Marketing Manager, Joanne Dirks; Banquet & Catering Coordinator, Marvinia Richardson; Director

of Catering & Events, Raynold Semeleer; Banquet Manager, Rufat Geerman; Sales Manager Nayla Geerman, and the resort's Weddings Specialists.

The Food & Beverage department catered the gathering nicely, as guests enjoyed cocktails at sunset, on the new Miramar Event Deck, at the edge of the beach. Pictured here guests and staffers, as they mix and mingle with members of the media, representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the business community.

The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Ca-

sino is undergoing enhancements, building on its legacy with progressive resort upgrades, including the added new beachfront tower and updates to the rooms, restaurants and bars. These enhancements, including the opening of a new tower to be completed in the fall of 2025.

Guests have been enjoying the Aruba Tower lobby fresh look, and the Sunset Grill known for its upscale ambience, is gearing up for reopening, with a classic design offering delicious food in an elegant dining room or Alfresco, overlooking the garden tree tops, and the waterfall. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Village Golf Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing 1 Emerald Ambassador and 2 Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister



of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador
Mrs. Elaine Rizzo from Newark, New Jersey, United States.

Goodwill Ambassador

Mr. Darrell & Mrs. Kellie Clark from Kennebunk, Maine, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Village Golf Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

Elaine Rizzo:

- "Spending time with a special Aruban family"
- "Returning yearly to see the many friends I have made"

- "The friendly helpful staff at Dutch Village, Divi Village, Paradise Beach Village"

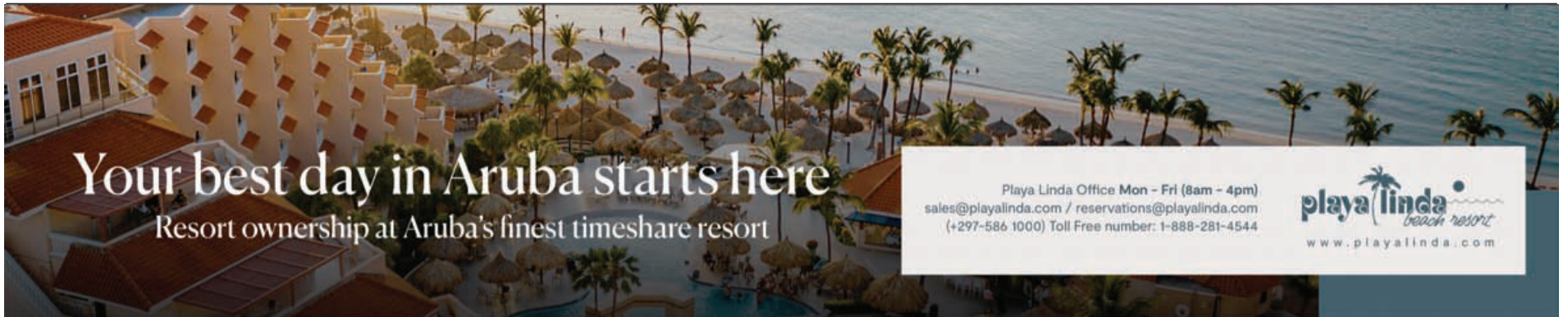
- "Getting some well needed rest"

- "Aruba is my home away from home"

The Clarks:

- Aruba's people
- Aruba's Sea
- Aruba's weather
- Aruba's Sand
- "The island itself"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



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Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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out compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Mary Harmon from the US.

She wrote to us saying:

"Aruba to me and my husband is returning to Paradise. Paradise Beach Villas specifically. Our home away from home to spend with our Aruban families from all over the world. Most importantly the employees at Paradise Beach Villas. We come at the same time every year and reconnect with everyone. First it was one week. Each year we added

on another week. Now we are up to one month. Still not enough when you are in paradise. Wish we could stay longer but need to be back home in the U.S.A. to be with our families to celebrate the holidays. This is our 15th year in Aruba. We chose this our favorite place to come too. Didn't need to go anywhere else after we discovered Aruba (the one happy island). We have a few favorite restaurants that we return to several times while we are here. Chalet Suisse we went 5 times because it is close by our resort. Food, the friendliness of staff and just the ambiance is fantastic. Really makes a difference each time you return the waiters welcome you back and remember your names. They have so many other customers that

are just passing through I don't how they manage to remember each one. Fishes and More we never pass up. We have to go there. Food is delicious. I especially like that they have the early bird. Served from 5 to 6:30PM. The Filet Mignon cooked to your preference is awesome. A few other restaurants we like to return to also.

We love spending our days on eagle beach right across from paradise. Each day we meet different people and new friendships are made. Our beach staff from Paradise Beach Villas do a great job taking care of us members, visitors and the upkeep of the beach. We were blessed again this year that we got to celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary on Friday the 13th of December

at Chalet Suisse. It's become a tradition now. Hopefully god willing we will get to do it again in 2025 with Zina, Scott and Jodi Hassel. We had a wonderful time as usual in Aruba for the month we were there. Unfortunately reality set in when we came back to the U.S.A. to snow and frigid temperatures. So looking forward to returning next year. 2024 flew in. Hopefully 2025 will too. If you haven't made a trip to Aruba. You are missing out. Put it on your bucket list. After your first visit you will be planning a return one. For such a small island there are so many interesting places to visit. You won't be disappointed. "

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □




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December 31	10AM - 4PM	Open until 10PM
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Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make “pan bati”



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! ☐

Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.



Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.



Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let

their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.



Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.



Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □

CROSSWORD

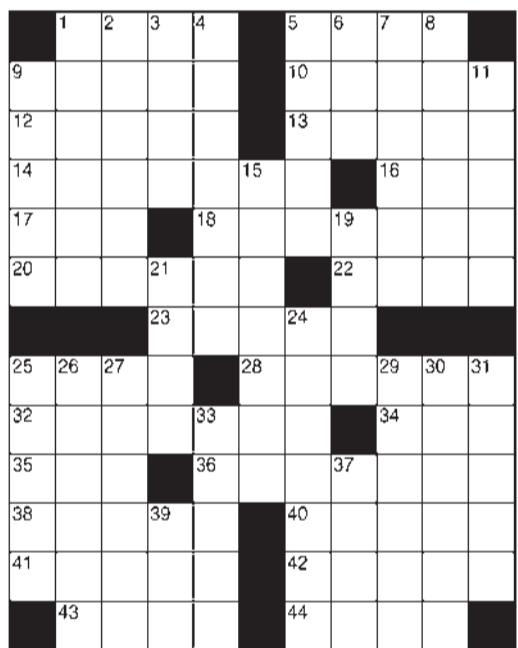
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 42 Birch's kin
1 Snoozes
5 Church leader
9 Della's boss
10 Isolated
12 — a limb
13 Pine product
14 Be an omen
16 Corp.'s superior
17 Hole number
18 Speculate
20 Milano of TV
22 General Bradley
23 Score speed
25 Bar mixer
28 Riviera nation
32 Washing machine cycle
34 Gangland gun
35 Flock father
36 Gift
38 Be penitent
40 School event
41 Wyoming's — Range

DOWN

- 1 Kind of network
2 Blood line
3 Debate group
4 Transmis-sion gap
5 "Gay" city of song
6 Bullring cry
7 American marsupial
8 Puzzle
9 Momma's mate
11 Door sign
15 Language topic
19 Shortly
21 RR stops
24 Probed with a stick
25 Small herring
26 Speaks
27 Reduce in rank
29 Meeting slate
30 Make void
31 Mink's cousin
33 Some tourneys
37 Store event
39 At this moment



12-23

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

U O I I Y T Z H X H A E H S Y Y

RAYNZ T B S Y J H O A P C S C H

J Q M H J Y Z P C A M J S U O J H X H .

— T Z Q Z Y N Z

Cryptoquote: CHARITY IS NOT A BONE YOU THROW TO A DOG, BUT A BONE YOU SHARE WITH A DOG. — CHINESE PROVERB

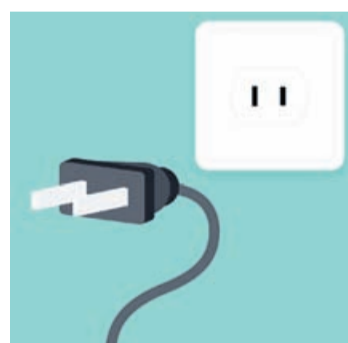
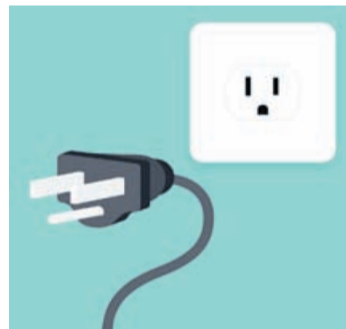
Cruise ship Schedule: December 23 - 27 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	23	SILVER RAY	08.00	23.00	C	1
		AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00	B	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		MSC DIVINA	08.00	22.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
WED	25	ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN GEM	07.00	21.00	C	1
THU	26	OCEANIA INSIGNIA	08.00	23.00	I	1
		CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	11.30	21.00	C	1
		EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	B	1
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR	09.00	23.59	B	1
		SILVER MOON	08.00	23.00	I	1
		NORWEGIAN JADE	07.00	20.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

How to kick back, relax and embrace a less-than-perfect holiday



(Associated Press Illustration/Peter Hamlin)

By **KATHERINE ROTH**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — We all know the stressors: Social obligations. Family discord. Political rifts. Financial stress. And the desire to stay cheery and big-hearted throughout.

So here's a reminder about how to banish your inner perfectionist and truly enjoy the holiday season:

"It really helps to let go of some of the 'shoulds,'" says Lynn F. Bufka, head of practice for the American Psychological Association. "Decide on the one thing that matters most, and the things that bring you the most joy, and let go of other things."

Traditions can shift and change, and the more flexible things are the easier it is for everybody, Bufka says.

"Focus your energy on creating a warm space for the people you love to gather and relax, catch up and celebrate one another. That's literally all that mat-

ters," agrees Lauren Iannotti, editor in chief of Real Simple.

Some tips:

Throw yourself into the parts of the holiday that make you happy

You could decide that conversation is your main goal, and not worry at all about the decor, says Bufka. Or if table decoration is what you love, spend your energy there and don't worry as much about other aspects. "Ideally, it should be about focusing on love, and that doesn't mean the same thing to everyone," says Bufka.

Don't hesitate to outsource some of that other stuff.

"People want to help — let them!" says Iannotti. "If you don't LOVE cooking all those sides, or are strapped for time, there is zero shame in accepting your sister's offer to do the stuffing. Or enlist help from the pros — support a local restaurant by ordering some catering platters."

A potluck can be your friend.

"Have everyone bring one signature dish," says Iannotti. "You'll save time and money on prep and cooking and your guests can show off their skills."

Give yourself permission to cut corners

"It's OK if the house is a little messy or dinner is on the table a few minutes late," says Iannotti. "If the people you've invited are more interested in grading your performance than having a good time, they can take that up with their therapist to sort through."

(They're not, by the way — "something to maybe take up with your therapist," she adds.)

And don't hesitate to let people help themselves, when possible. "If you don't have time to play bartender, create a signature drink ahead of time that can serve all of your guests. You can also just leave

out a few mixers so guests can serve themselves and make their own creations," suggests Caroline Utz, editorial and strategy director at The Spruce.

It's OK to step away for alone time

Things will run well enough if you're not overseeing it all, so take care of yourself. Take breathers or walks if that helps you stay centered. □



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2 Bed WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

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3 Bed Ocean view \$30,000

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Penix wins debut as Atlanta QB as Falcons beat hapless Giants

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Michael Penix Jr. won his debut as Atlanta's starting quarterback, thanks largely to a defense that returned a pair of interceptions for touchdowns, and the Falcons bolstered their play-off hopes by handing the hapless New York Giants their franchise-record 10th straight loss, 34-7 on Sunday. Jessie Bates and Matthew Judon each had a pick-6 to carry Atlanta (8-7) to its second straight win after a four-game losing streak put its postseason hopes in jeopardy. The Falcons came into the week a game behind Tampa Bay in the NFC South and holding the tiebreaker edge over the Buccaneers, who were playing Sunday night at Dallas.

Penix, the No. 8 overall pick in this year's draft, got his first NFL start against the Giants (2-13) after the Falcons decided to bench turnover-prone Kirk Cousins, just nine months after signing him to a four-year, \$180 million contract that included \$100 million in guaranteed money. The left-handed rookie was not overwhelmed by the moment, completing 18 of 27 passes for 202 yards — numbers that would've been better if not for at least three dropped passes, one of which Kyle Pitts bobbled right into the hands of a New York defender for Penix's lone interception.

RAMS 19, JETS 9

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Matthew Stafford threw a go-ahead 11-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Higbee early in the fourth quarter after a turnover by Aaron Rodgers and Los Angeles beat New York for their fourth consecutive victory. The Rams (9-6), who have won five of six, maintained their spot atop the NFC West standings with the victory after a slow start against the Jets (4-11) on a day when it was a frosty 23 degrees (minus-5 Celsius) at kickoff.

But Los Angeles' defense, which struggled most of the game against Rodgers and New York's offense, came up with a momentum-turn-



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Penix Jr. (9) tackled by New York Giants linebacker Kayvon Thibodeaux (5) short of the first down in the first half of an NFL football game in Atlanta, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024.

Associated Press

ing play.

With the game tied at 9 early in the fourth quarter, Kam Curl sacked Rodgers on a blitz and forced a fumble that Jared Verse recovered at the Jets 21.

Three plays later, Stafford found Higbee — making his season debut after missing the first 14 games with a knee injury — for a go-ahead 11-yard touchdown that made it 16-9.

BENGALS 24, BROWNS 6

CINCINNATI (AP) — Joe Burrow threw three touchdown passes, including one as he was falling to the turf, and Cincinnati kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a victory over Cleveland.

The Bengals (7-8) need to win their last two games and get some help to reach the postseason.

Burrow passed for three or more TDs for the seventh consecutive game and finished 23 of 30 for 252 yards. Ja'Marr Chase had six catches for 97 yards and a garbage-time touchdown for Cincinnati to reach 1,510 yards this season and break his own franchise record of 1,455 yards set in 2021.

Myles Garrett, who said this week the Browns franchise should be focused on winning and not rebuilding, recorded the 100th sack of his career in the second quarter.

With Dorian Thompson-Robinson replacing Jameis Winston at quarterback, Cleveland (3-12) missed some chances in the red zone.

LIONS 34, BEARS 17

CHICAGO (AP) — Jared Goff threw for 336 yards and three touchdowns, and Detroit remained on top of the NFC with their franchise-record 13th win, over Chicago.

Jameson Williams had a career-high 143 yards receiving on five catches, including an 82-yard touchdown in the second quarter. Jahmyr Gibbs ran for 109 yards and a score, and Detroit (13-2) broke a tie with the 1991 and 2023 teams for the most wins in franchise history. The Lions also set a single-season record for scoring with 493 points.

The Lions took control early against the Bears (4-11), and they even flexed their dominance by executing a trick play in which Goff intentionally stumbled while dropping back. With Detroit players yelling "Fumble!" and Gibbs pretending to dive for the ball, Goff threw to Sam LaPorta for a 21-yard touchdown that made it 34-14.

COMMANDERS 36, EAGLES 33

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — After Jalen Hurts left with a

concussion, Jayden Daniels threw five touchdown passes while running at will in the rookie quarterback's latest masterful performance, and Washington ended Philadelphia' winning streak at 10 by rallying to defeat the NFC East leaders.

Daniels' heroics culminated with a 57-yard touchdown drive in the final 1:58, finding Jamison Crowder in the end zone with 6 seconds left. He bounced back from throwing an interception on the previous possession and led the Commanders (10-5) back after they fell behind by 14 points seven minutes into the game and trailed by 14 going into the fourth quarter.

They are now on the verge of making the playoffs after handing Philadelphia (12-3) its first loss since Sept. 29. The Eagles played without Hurts for the vast majority of the game and failed to clinch the division and one of the conference's top two seeds despite Saquon Barkley running for 109 yards and two touchdowns in the first quarter alone.

Daniels was the primary reason for that, beating the Eagles a month after losing to them on the road. He was 24 of 39 for 258 yards with a pair of TDs to Crowder and Olamide Zaccheaus and one to Ter-

ry McLaurin — and Daniels was Washington's leading rusher with 81 yards on nine carries.

COLTS 38, TITANS 30

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Jonathan Taylor rebounded from perhaps the most embarrassing moment of his career by rushing for 218 yards and scoring three times including runs of 65 and 70 yards, leading Indianapolis past Tennessee. Indy rushed for a franchise-record 335 yards as Taylor posted the second-highest single-game rushing total in the league this season and also of his five-year career. The three rushing scores were the most since he scored four TDs against Buffalo in 2021. Taylor's big day came one week after he dropped the ball before the goal line, and it bounced out of bounds for a touchback in a crushing loss at Denver.

This time, Taylor made sure that didn't happen again this week by holding onto the ball all the way through the end zone. Indy (7-8) won its fourth straight in this AFC South series.

PANTHERS 36, CARDINALS 30, OT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Chuba Hubbard ran for a 21-yard touchdown in overtime, and Carolina eliminated Arizona from playoff contention with a victory.

Hubbard finished with 152 yards and two TDs on 25 carries. He rushed for 49 yards on the decisive drive in OT.

Kyler Murray threw for 202 yards with a touchdown and an interception, and his 20-yard TD run helped rally Arizona (7-8) from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to force the extra period. But it wasn't enough for the Cardinals, who led the NFC West in early November but have lost four of five since.

Bryce Young went 17 of 26 for 158 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a career-high 68 yards, including 23-yard score, as the Panthers snapped a four-game skid. Adam Thielen and David Moore had TD catches for Carolina (4-11). □

Tiger's son makes the ace. Bernhard Langer makes the winning putt in playoff over Woods at PNC

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods' son hit the shot of his life for his first hole-in-one. Bernhard Langer hit the shot that mattered Sunday, an 18-foot eagle putt in a playoff to beat Woods and son Charlie in a terrific duel at the PNC Championship.

Langer and son Jason won for the second straight year, and the 67-year-old German now has won back-to-back at the PNC Championship with two sons as his partners.

They put on quite a show at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando, particularly when 15-year-old Charlie hit 7-iron on the par-3 fourth hole for his first ace, getting a huge hug from his father and a reminder that he would have to buy a round of drinks for everyone.

"I'm broke," Charlie replied.

Even in defeat, Charlie said the hole-in-one, the great closing round, the playoff, everything, was the most fun he's had on the golf course.

"It's not even close," he said.

His father concurred.

"That was the thrill of a lifetime to be able to have that moment with Charlie, make his first hole-in-one, (daughter) Sam on the bag, just our family and friends. That's what this event is about. It's about bonding and family," Woods said.

"I know we didn't win, but it was the fact that we competed," he said. "No one really made a mistake out there. We had to earn it, and that's what you want to have. Hats off to Langers. They played amazing."

Team Langer and Team Woods each closed with a 15-under 57 in the scramble format, each team making only four pars, and they set the tournament record at 28-under 116.

In the playoff, Langer had the advantage on the par 5 because of his age. He played the third set of tees, 82 yards ahead of where Woods had to play and 52

yards ahead of where the two sons were hitting.

Charlie just reached the front of the green. His 25-foot eagle putt hit the edge of the hole but had too much pace. Woods missed low. Jason Langer hit his approach to 18 feet, and he left it to his ageless father to make the winner.

For Woods, it was his first time in a playoff since Zach Johnson beat him at Sherwood in the 2013 World Challenge.

On a chilly afternoon, every seat was filled in the grandstand behind the 18th green, with fans in jackets packed down the side of the fairway. It was entertaining, along with a rare chance to see Woods on the golf course. He was

playing for the first time since September surgery on his lower back. His last competition was the British Open in July.

Charlie was gearing up for a big fist pump when his eagle putt in the playoff neared the hole. Langer threw both arms in the air when his winning putt dropped.

It capped another amazing year for Langer, a two-time Masters champion. He tore his Achilles tendon playing pickleball at the start of the year, recovered in four months and extended his streak on the 50-and-older PGA Tour Champions by winning for the 18th consecutive season.

And now he has five titles in the PNC Championship —



Bernhard Langer, right, and his son Jason Langer hold the championship belts after winning the PNC Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

three with Jason, two with Stefan, who was caddying for his little brother.

No one else was closer than five shots. Padraig Harrington and son Paddy

were among those who tied for third, and they had a moment of their own when Paddy made a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth hole. □



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Start this year's vacation with this amazing experience in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort

Water's Edge Restaurant is a jewel many had the pleasure to find!

Palm Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic

French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.



Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**

